

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

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R 251305Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7935

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12505

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 2254 DTD 25 AUG 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 2254

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJ: ANTI-COW SLAUGHTER AGITATION

REF: A) NEW DELHI 12344; B) BOMBAY 2090; C) BOMBAY 2027

1. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT A TOTAL BAN ON
COW SLAUGHTER IN MAHARASHTRA IS IMMINENT, BUT CANNOT PIN DOWN ANY
DETAILS ON PLANNING.

2. CURRENTLY THERE IS A PARTIAL BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER BUT IT DOES
NOT INCLUDE THE BOMBAY AND PEA DIVISIONS. REPORTEDLY CHIEF
MINISTER CHAVAN FAVORS AN EXTENSION OF THE COW SLAUGHTER BAN TO
THE ENTIRE STATE. HOWEVER THE GOM LAW DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET
BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DRAW AN APPROPRIATE DRAFT ORDINANCE (WHICH
WOULD BE AN INTERIM DEVICE FOR THE BAN UNTIL THE LEGISLATURE
COULD ACT AT THE AUTUMN SESSION.)

3. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SEEMS SIGNIFICANT THAT ON AUGUST 21
CHIEF MINISTER CHAVAN JOINED THE UNOFFICIAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
ESTABLISHED IN 1967, TO STUDY THE RELATED QUESTIONS OF BANNING
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AND OF CATTLE WELFARE. ONE SOURCE PREDICTED THAT ITS REPORT

RECOMMENDING THE BAN WOULD BE OUTBEORE SEPTEMBER 11 AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT AT LEAST THE PRINCIPLE OF A BAN. FAFM REF PARA 2 OF REFTTEL A, WE CAN IDENTIFY MR PRAHBARKER ONLY AS HARIJAN SARVODAYA LEADER FROM HYDERABAD, WHO IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MEDIATORS BETWEEN ACHARA BHAVE ANDTYE PRIME MINISTER SEEKING A COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFRONATATION. (ONE HINDI DAILY TODAY STATED THAT TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR SUKHADIA MET BHVE ON AUGUST 23 TO DISCUSS AGAIN THE ISSUE AND PROCEEDED TO DELHI ON AUGUST 24TH.) THE THRUST OF THE REPORTS WE ARE RECEIVING ON COMPROMISE ATTEMPTS IS THAT MRS GHANDI IS MORE INCLINED TO REACH A COMPROMISE THAN IS BHAVE, A SITUATION WHICH, OF COURSE, WOULD INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOLD OF A BAN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11.

5. LOCAL MOSLIM LEAGUE LEADER BANATWALA TOLD US TODAY THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED FURTHER BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE (REF B). BANATWALA SAID THAT HE NOW PLANS TO TAKE NO ADVANCE ACTION ON PRESENTING LOCAL MOSLEM LEAGUE VIEWS, SAVING ANY REACTION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE BAN MAY BE ISSUED HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED COMMENT ON WHAT THAT REACTION MIGHT BE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A CARBON COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL MOSLEM LEAGUE PRESIDENT TO THE SAWAN SINGH COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM ISSUE IN WHICH THE LEAGUE STATES THAT WHILE IT COULD ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THE "PROPOSED DUTIES" FOR MEMBERS OF INDIA'S MOSLEM COMMUNITY, IT COULD NOT ACCEPT A CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH APPLIED TO ARTICLE 44 (UNIFORM CODE), ARTICLE 48 (COW SLAUGHTER), OR ANY ADDITION TO THE DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES WHICH RELATE TO COMPULSORY STERILIZATION. ROSENTHAL

UNQUOTE
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